

If we view health reform through the lens of the ongoing Massachusetts experiment, there are some fundamental principles to anchor the national effort.

1. Each of us has an individual responsibility to take care of our health—including screenings and check-ups, as well as maintaining health insurance to help pay for our care and that of our families.

2. Each of us has a collective responsibility, as citizens of a caring society, to support public policies that guarantee access to safe, high quality, affordable and patient-centered health care for everyone in society.

3. Each of us, in the field of health care, has a professional responsibility to strive for the highest level of competency, to ensure that we, and our colleagues in the patient care team, deliver the right care at the right time and in the right place.

These principles can serve as a shining beacon for health reform in the nation, much as this Commonwealth led the nation in propagating the principles of democratic government, social progress, and educational excellence throughout its proud history.

Massachusetts' first Governor, John Winthrop, wrote in 1630 about the social experiment being launched in this New World. He called upon his Puritan brethren and all their descendants to share their resources and gifts with others, "rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together so that—"the world will say of succeeding plantations, may the Lord make it like that of New England . . . we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us." Sharing our gifts with others is the cornerstone of health care reform in Massachusetts and, I hope, it will be your personal cornerstone in your health care careers as well.

Truly, the eyes of all people in America are focused on the Massachusetts health reform experience as a framework for bringing expanded access to quality care to all Americans. But that's not all we're contributing to health care. This morning, Massachusetts is sending forth from this city upon a hill, a new class of highly skilled, and energized health care professionals with their degree in optometry in hand!

While past experience may teach us to be skeptical of the promises of any politician, to those of you who will dedicate your health care careers to the betterment of your state and all her people—I can promise a lifetime of challenge and opportunity, sometimes exciting and rewarding, sometimes slow and difficult, but always, always worthwhile.

And let me add one final bit of parting wisdom: No one ever injured his or her eyesight by looking on the bright side of things! The economy will improve! You'll earn a good living! And those of us in government can't wait to share in your success every April 15th!

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN MICHAEL
T. DOYLE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Captain Michael T. Doyle, upon his retirement from the Cleveland Police Department, following thirty years of dedicated service to the citizens of Cleveland.

Captain Doyle graduated from Normandy High School in Parma, Ohio, then went on to graduate with honors from Cleveland State University. Shortly thereafter, Captain Doyle

accepted a position in law enforcement as the Assistant Deputy Sheriff for Medina County. After four years, in 1981, he began his service to the City of Cleveland as a Cleveland Police officer.

Captain Doyle's service to our community extended across nearly every police district in the City and included work as patrol officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant and captain. Throughout his tenure, Captain Doyle fostered trust, communication and cooperation among individuals throughout our community, from neighborhood block club members to elected officials at Cleveland City Hall.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Captain Michael T. Doyle for his unwavering dedication to protecting the citizens of Cleveland, Ohio.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the FY 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 2892

Account: FEMA, State and Local Programs

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of La Habra

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 E. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631

Funding Secured: \$254,500

Description of Request: Currently, the City of La Habra's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a very small conference room within the Police Station. The maximum occupancy is less than a dozen individuals, and there is not adequate space or equipment to serve as an Emergency Operations Center, particularly if there were a large-scale emergency such as an earthquake, wildfires, act of terrorism, etc. During the recent "Golden Guardian" earthquake exercise in California, the team evaluating the City's performance noted the inadequacy of the facility and its hindrance to the exercise. The problems would be even more pronounced should there be an actual emergency requiring the mobilization of our first responders and emergency personnel. This project would provide for necessary equipment and modifications to establish the various required components of an EOC (Planning and Intelligence, Operations, Communications, Public Information, etc.). I believe that it is critical for Congress to use taxpayer dollars responsibly by investing in Southern California communities to prevent, combat, and contain the devastating threat of fire and natural disasters that routinely ravage the Southern California landscape

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR.
DAVID GORDON PERSONS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Doctor David Gordon Persons on the occasion of his retirement from Wayside Presbyterian Church after thirty three years of leadership. It is my pleasure to recognize Reverend Dr. Persons and acknowledge him as an influential role model in the Western New York area.

Reverend Dr. Persons' leadership abilities were apparent at an early age. As a student of Sherman High School, he was lettered in both basketball and track and he was a member of the Top Math Team to represent Western New York at Boys Town. Upon graduating from Sherman High School in 1961, he received the American Legion Citizen of the Year award.

Reverend Dr. Persons' commitment to the Western New York community is evident by his leadership, devotion and dedication to the people in our community. His community service extended to the Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as Chaplain and Life Member for over thirty years. He was also a member of the Kiwanis Club from 1979 to 1986.

His belief that understanding and reaching out to the world can make a difference led to his co-founding of the Task Force to Reduce the Nuclear Arms Race at the United Nations, which later became the Peace Committee of Western New York. He has been a major influence and inspiration in the lives of young people. From 1979 to 1986, he led yearly youth group bike tours in Western New York and Southern Pennsylvania. Reverend Dr. Persons also led a youth group to the 20th Anniversary of Martin Luther King's speech.

Foremost, Reverend Dr. Persons has been integral to the life of his congregation. Over his religious career, he has officiated at some six hundred funerals, six hundred weddings and one thousand baptisms. His skills were recognized by his colleagues, and from 1965 to 1967, Reverend Dr. Persons was President of the Preaching Association in Seminary. In 1987, he was awarded grants to study meditation in ashrams in India. He is currently Moderator of Wright's Memorial Presbyterian Church—Native American Church in Irving, New York as well as Moderator of Presbytery of Western New York. He also holds the positions of the Chair of Presbytery Church and Society Committee as well as the Head of Presbytery Worship Committee.

Madam Speaker, along with his family, friends and great admirers who will join together today at the Wanakah Country Club, I am honored to pay tribute to the admirable accomplishments of Reverend Dr. Persons. His life of leadership, compassion and service to others is truly an example for us all on the enormous difference one person can make. I wish him all the best in his retirement.